



**CITY OF DANBURY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

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FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of December 21st, 2015 through January 21st, 2016 and details activities of the Department.

I am pleased to announce that we have a new Deputy Fire Marshal for the City of Danbury, Terry Timan. Terry began his new position after being sworn in on January 6th. He is a welcome addition to our Fire Marshals Division. Danbury will be well served by his dedication and professionalism.

This winter snow fall has been very limited but we still have a long winter to go. We would like to take this opportunity to remind Danburians that it is great help to us when it does snow and our citizens shovel out their fire hydrants. We have over 2000 hydrants in the city. It is critical that these devices be available in the event of fire. If you have a fire hydrant on or near your property, please shovel the snow from around it so that if we need it, we can get to it.

With the continuation of the cold weather, we are aware that the risk of hypothermia is a real threat. Please remember to wear warm clothing and to cover your hands and heads when outside. The very young and those with circulation issues are especially at risk. Bundle up and remember that spring is just 6 weeks away!

Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Lt. Daly completed work on the Salvation Army Food Drive.

A number of tours were conducted, including Boy Scouts as well as Michel Souza, a friend of DC Meehan who is a Firefighter in Maringa, Brazil. They were assisted by Volunteer Firefighter Alex Ferreira from Independent Hose.

Truck Company spoke with 2nd grade class at Park Ave School after clearing from an incident at the building.

Truck-1 did a site walk through with the safety supervisors at the exit 2 rest area construction site for the underground boring operation.

The Music Guild was toured post-fire. Sign-a-rama in Commerce Park, as well as the new Naugatuck Community College downtown, were also toured.

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

Savings Bank of Danbury on Mill Plain Road reported a strong odor of gas in the building. Crews metered the building and investigated. E26 metered elevated levels of CO throughout the offices. Truck Company laddered the building and found a malfunctioning rooftop HVAC unit was the source of the problem. Gas and electric power to the unit was secured by FD personnel and a service contractor notified. Truck Company assisted E26 with ventilation to ensure metered levels of CO were 0, at which time the employees were allowed to reoccupy.

An incident Express Fuels on Mill Plain Road was initially an odor investigation. E26 investigated and confirmed an odor, elevated CO and 100ppm VOCs. C30 was advised of situation by E26 and requested DEEP contact E26, which resulted in their response to the scene. Further investigation showed that a refrigerant gas leak was the cause of the odor and, likely, the VOC readings. Following DEEP recommendations, E26 secured power to the faulty unit, evacuated occupants and closed the store. The business owner, who had also responded, arranged to have a service tech repair the unit the following morning. DEEP would follow up.

A response to a preschool leasing space on White Street from Mars Electric was a reported gas leak in the building. Eversource was on scene upon FD arrival. Eversource technician had metered significantly elevated CO levels above the ceiling tiles in the preschool area and in the adjacent space, which was under renovation. Apparently, workers were operating a gas powered saw to cut the concrete floor and exhaust migrated to various areas. Saw use was discontinued, FD ventilated the building, and workers were advised to not do work that could detrimentally affect air quality in the preschool area. C30 contacted a DFM to follow up with the owner to express concerns. The school was allowed to reoccupy when all levels were metered at 0.

Crews responded to 16 Southview Avenue for a reported structure fire. With light smoke showing on arrival, crews investigated and found a smoldering comforter which had been inadvertently pushed against a halogen light, bringing the comforter just short of ignition temperature. The homeowner was alerted by a properly functioning smoke alarm and shut off power to the light. Crews removed the comforter to the driveway and extinguished it. Truck Company ventilated the smoke from the house. DFM Osborne investigated. No injuries reported.

A garage fire was extinguished on South Street, as well as a bedroom fire on Sheridan Street.



South Street garage fire

All career units responded to a third alarm fire on Christmas Day at 276 Main Street, which started on the second floor in the rear storage area. Danbury Volunteers and Bethel VFD aerial ladder also responded. Companies from New Fairfield, Stony Hill, Brookfield, Hawleyville, and Ridgefield helped cover the City. There was one minor injury to a civilian. The first floor business has re-opened, and the cause is undetermined and still under investigation, but appears to be accidental.



Main Street fire

Command and Staff Activities

- City Council meeting
- Dispatch oversight meetings with IXP and the PD
- Monthly EMS/Dispatch steering committee
- Volunteer Council meeting
- Meeting with Local 801 Union officers
- EAP training
- Main Street fire post-incident analysis
- Swearing-in ceremony for DFM Terry Timan
- Annual Red Cross Blood Drive
- Civil Service Meeting
- Purchasing Board of Awards
- Motorola survey of Spruce Mountain site
- Civil Service – Captain and Communication Supervisor Promotional exam prep
- Construction meetings at New classroom
- College intern visit
- Coordinate light duty assignments
- Aviation Commission meeting



Terry Timan sworn in as DFM while his dad, retired DFD firefighter Mickey looks on

Emergency Medical / HazMat – Coordinator Rey Rodriguez

EMS Wednesday

The topic for this month's EMS Wednesday is Patient Assessment. Patient assessment is a systematic approach to discover immediately life-threatening problems so that treatment can be provided by the Fire Department's First Responders to stabilize the patient's condition during emergency medical calls before transport to the Hospital's Emergency Department.

Advanced EMT Medical Control

The Danbury Fire Department's thirty four Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians have submitted their yearly applications and received Medical Control from our sponsor hospital, Danbury Hospital.

In order to maintain medical control the A-EMTs must attend twelve hours of Continuing Medical Education at the Danbury Hospital or an approved provider and an additional twelve hours of in-house Continuing Medical Education classes which are done while firefighters are on duty. Along with the 24 hours of lecture, the A-EMTs are required to demonstrate proficiency in various advanced life support skills.

EMS Supervisors Meetings

EMS/HazMat Coordinator Rodriguez attended the EMS Supervisors meeting at the Danbury Hospital on 1/20/16. Topics of discussion included:

- Educational Opportunities: The next CME at the Danbury hospital is Medical Emergencies and will be held at the Danbury Hospital on Feb. 23, 2016. Yale New Haven is sponsoring the Emergency Medical Services conference for Children on March 1, 2016.
- Medical Control Renewal
- Trauma data and lecture series
- Stroke data
- Protocol update

Regional HAZMAT

Equipment requisitioned with funds from the 2015 Homeland Security Grant has begun to arrive. All Level A suits and Level B suits on the HAZMAT Regional response vehicle have been replaced; the old suits have been relocated to Engine 23 to be utilized for training.

Communications/911 – Provisional Communications Coord. Jamie Gagliardo

- Dec 21-22nd – Reprogrammed all the career station Federal Informers (the station paging units) with a new "Career All Call" tone. The old "All Call" tone has been removed from the career stations and re-purposed to a "Volunteer All Call" tone. This should clear up the issue of the career station "All Call" alerting that didn't always activate due to the nature of its transmission over the simulcast control station. This will also eliminate the over use of the "All Call" for single company and volunteer company responses.
- Dec 23rd – Hiked to the Spruce Mountain Tower location with representatives from Ridgefield and Motorola to survey the area for a future replacement radio tower and equipment shelter.
- Dec 25th – Responded as the Communications Coordinator to the structure fire at 276 Main Street.
- Dec 28th – Attended the Volunteer Fireman's Council Meeting to discuss some recent radio tone out changes along with the future installation of iPads in the volunteer company vehicles.
- Dec 29th – Worked with Training Officer Rogers and Engine 3 with newly purchased new Scott Air Paks and the Scott Pak Tracker. These units are

excellent for firefighter retrieval but must correlate with the current radio system and policies.

- Dec 30th – Met with Charlie Setaro from Engine Co. 5 and the Training Officer to review the drone footage of the structure fire at 276 Main Street.
- Dec 30th – Reviewed and saved all radio dispatch recordings for the structure fire at 276 Main Street for the fire critique scheduled January 12th.
- Jan 11th – Repair of Boxwood Lane receiver site with Frontier Communications
- Jan 11th – We received a demo of the eDispatches software. This software may be a temporary solution to the issue of high cost for replacement Motorola pagers for the volunteer division. This trial will go for about a month. While using the demo we will evaluate its effectiveness.
- Jan 12th – Worked with Asst. Chief Meyers from the Ridgefield Fire Department to compare radio programming for interoperability in regards to our upcoming automatic mutual aid agreement to Beohringer Ingelheim complex
- Jan 12th – Attended the post incident analysis for the structure fire at 276 Main Street
- Jan 13th – Assisted the Chief's office with an AFG Grant Application
- Jan 13th – Adjustments were made to the automatic fire alarm and inside odor of gas call response guidelines to make responses more efficient and safer for our responders.
- Jan 13th – Attended an Employee Assistance Program training course which was full of valuable information for the changes in the workplace environment
- Jan 14th – Training was done with the volunteer division with their new iPads Mobile Data Terminals which will be placed in each company's front line vehicle. These iPads will better inform responders when enroute to a call with up-to-date information.
- Jan 20th – Installed a status screen monitor in the Fire Marshal's office. This status monitor gives up-to-date information regarding active calls within the city.
- Jan 19th – Took a trip to Northeastern Communications for some radio parts and review of some new equipment we are in the beginning phase of purchasing.
- Jan 21st – Met with IXP supervisors during shift change to update them on the new response guidelines that plan to be implemented in the next few weeks.
- Jan 21st – Attended the Active Shooter Training instructed by Danbury Police at Fire Headquarters. This was a very valuable course for us as first responders to these types of situations.

Ongoing projects

- Response guidelines: All of our current response guidelines have been corrected. We've gone through each call type thoroughly and made any additional changes and corrections that were needed. Members have been diligently testing these changes in the training environment of NexGen. Once tested, they will be published to the live CAD version and be in full use. Training with the Fire Department staff and the Western Connecticut 911 center staff is being scheduled. A tentative date for the upgrades is February 2nd.
- Approximately 4 hours a week have been spent in the Danbury 911 center for observation to create a better working system between the fire department and the dispatchers. Every week, strengthening of our agency relationships is observed.

Training – Training Officer Steve Rogers

Volunteer Division

The pilot recruit training has been scheduled and instructors have been selected.

First Quarter training is scheduled and notification of the dates have been sent to all companies. We will be covering SCBA and RIT training.

Orange tag photos have been processed with Paul Estefan for volunteers.

Provisional Communication Coordinator Gagilardo and myself participated in RIT training with Engine 3 and other volunteer companies. I also attended iPad training for volunteers.

Career Division

Fire Officer Classes

ILEAD – New Lieutenants Ted Mourges and Rich Krikorian attended the week long “ILEAD” program for new officers at the CT Fire Academy. The program was run by the Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs. Both individuals learned a lot from the class and recommend continued training for future newly appointed Lieutenants.

EMS – All crews participated in the new Stryker Power Loader class offered by EMS Coordinator Rodriguez and Hospital EMS.

NVCC – The Winter semester class “Fire Administration” is being offered in Waterbury this semester.

Meetings/Events for the T.O.:

- 12/21, 12/22, 12/26 – EMS Stryker review
- 12/29 – Rapid Intervention Training with Volunteer companies
- 1/9 – Volunteer Orange Tag pictures
- 1/12 – Post incident analysis for 276 Main Street fire, A-Group
- 1/14 – EAP training “Work place behavior” with Annie Litton
- 1/20 – Post incident analysis for 276 Main Street fire, B-Group
- 1/21 – Active Shooter Training with Danbury PD’s SGT Georgoulis, D-Group
- 1/25-1/21 – Active Shooter Training with Danbury PD’s SGT Georgoulis, A-Group

Apparatus / Equipment – Superintendent Joe Cavo

E-24 has received a recall notice for possible defective ball joints from Pierce. For the last two years we have been regularly inspecting (as suggested by Pierce) all of our Dash cab units with the TAK-4 suspension for possible ball joint failures. These units are well within tolerance levels and show no signs of imminent failure. Our Pierce service center is working on scheduling E-24 to go to their facility to have further inspections and replacement if needed. We moved two out of service Ford Taurus cars over to Public Utilities for disposal.

Other repairs completed:

- Fabricated bracket and mount Axe/Halligan in Squad-1.
- Replaced starter in E-23.
- Serviced snow blower.
- Replaced 24' ladder halyard on R-1.
- Serviced 10PA2, replace primer cable.
- Replaced 4 tires 13FE (Car 30).
- Serviced E-24, repack pump, replace primer cable, annual inspection.
- Repaired hose tester.
- Repaired scene light E-24.
- Repaired headlights E-23.
- Performed welding repairs to Trk-2.
- Returned 15FE to service after extensive auto body repairs from accident.

Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Jim Russell Staff

Welcome to the newest member of our team, Fire Inspector Terry Timan. Terry comes to us as an experienced Firefighter. He has done an outstanding job over the years, and has been very active in our community. Our two new Fire Inspectors, Tyler Bergemann and Eric Handau, have completed the first part of the Fire Marshal's Certification class (Code Enforcement). They will begin the Fire Investigation portion of the class on February 17th, along with our newly appointed Fire Inspector. The class will be finished on April 1st, 2016. We are looking forward to having them on our team, as our department rebuilds to full strength.

Inspections

This month we inspected 339 hotel rooms and 197 apartments. We also did 16 misc. inspections, 8 liquor inspections, 6 places of assembly, 7 businesses, 3 day care, and 3 educational occupancies. There was 1 health care inspection and 4 mercantile inspections.

Plan Reviews

Our team continues to spend time doing plan reviews. This month we spent 20 hours reviewing plans for several store fit outs in the Danbury Fair Mall, O'Brien's Sports Pub, and the Danbury High School fire alarm system.

Fire Investigations

This month we had 6 building fires, 4 vehicle fires, and 3 rubbish/garbage/grass/other types of fires. Investigations were done on all fires.

Poster Contest

The Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest began on October 1st, 2015. We have a hard act to follow after having the State Winner in last year's contest. We have already been working in preparation for this year. All posters have been returned from the schools and judging is underway.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	599
Abatements issued	2
Violations issued	2
Complaints	1
Fire Investigations	14
Fire Safety Programs	0

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	2668
Cellular 911 calls	1872
Abandoned 911 calls	292
Admin calls received	733